

A synopsis of the genus *Syncarpha* (Compositae-Gnaphalieae)

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The genus *Helipterum* DC. in its traditional circumscription (De Candolle, Bentham a. o.) is an unnatural assemblage of South African and Australian elements. The defining technical character of the plumose pappus is artificial, grouping together unrelated elements and excluding clearly related taxa hitherto placed in *Helichrysum*.

As indicated repeatedly in recent literature (Hilliard & Burt 1981 a, 1981 b, Hilliard 1983), a revision of the South African "*Helipterums*" is in preparation by the present author. Since the final publication will still take some time and there is a demand for scientific names of the taxa involved, a synopsis of the taxa presently recognized is presented here. Several new combinations are necessary, but the description of a few new taxa will be deferred to the final revision.

Helipterum was erected by De Candolle (1838) to include South African as well as Australian species. The genus has not been typified, but it would seem appropriate to choose the type among the South African taxa, which come first in De Candolle's treatment. In any case *Helipterum* is hopelessly illegitimate and antedated by at least four earlier generic names, viz. *Syncarpha* DC., *Astelma* R. Br. ex Ker-Gawl., *Leucostemma* D. Don and *Damironia* Cass.

As pointed out to me by Dr. Paul G. Wilson (pers. comm.) the matter is even more complicated. It can be argued that the generic name *Helipterum* was first published by Lindley (1836) in a way that made it an illegitimate superfluous name for *Argyrocome* Gaertn. In that case *Helipterum* DC. (1838) is a later homonym.

There seems to be little point in proposing to conserve *Helipterum* with a South African type. The most well known species are all Australian, including several of the commercially most important everlasting. The Australian complex is under revision (by P. G. Wilson and co-workers), and drastic changes in generic circumscription can be expected. Whether or not *Helipterum* can be retained for an Australian element remains to be seen.

For the South African taxa the oldest name *Syncarpha* is here reinstated. 25 species and some infraspecific taxa are currently recognized, most of which are transfers from *Helipterum*, some however from *Helichrysum*. The most closely related genus (sister group) is probably *Edmondia* Cass., a genus of three species restricted to the southwestern Cape Province. De Candolle's concept of *Helipterum* included *Edmondia* as a section, but the genus was later transferred to *Helichrysum* (Harvey 1865), and then resurrected by Hilliard & Burt (1981 a).

Syncarpha DC.

De Candolle, Ann. Mus. Natl. Hist. Nat. 16: 205 (1810). – Type: *S. gnaphaloides* (L.) DC.

Syn.: *Astelma* R. Br. ex Ker-Gawl., Bot. Reg.: 532 (1821). – Type: *A. eximium* (L.) R. Br. ex Ker-Gawl.

Leucostemma D. Don, Mem. Wern. Nat. Hist. Soc. 5: 540 (1826). – Type: Not designated.

Damironia Cass., Dict. Sci. Nat. 56: 224 (1828). – Type: *D. cernua* Cass. nom. illeg. (*Xeranthemum variegatum* L.)

Helipterum DC. p.p., Prodr. 6: 211 (1838). – Type: Not designated.

Species 25, confined to Cape Province, South Africa.

1. **S. gnaphaloides** (L.) DC., l. c. (1810).
Syn.: *Staelina gnaphaloides* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 1176 (1753);
Helipterum gnaphaloides (L.) DC., Prodr. 6: 213 (1838).
2. **S. dregeana** (DC.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum dregeanum* DC., Prodr. 6: 214 (1838).
3. **S. milleflora** (L. fil.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Gnaphalium milleflorum* L. fil., Suppl. Pl.: 362 (1781);
Helipterum milleflorum (L. fil.) Druce, Rep. Bot. Exch. Cl. Brit. Isles 1916: 627 (1917). – *Gnaphalium phlomoides* Lam., Encycl. 2: 740 (1788);
Helipterum phlomoides (Lam.) DC. Prodr. 6: 213 (1838).

4. **S. eximia** (L.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Gnaphalium eximium* L., Mant. Pl. Alt.: 573 (1773); *Helipterum eximium* (L.) DC., Prodr. 6: 213 (1838).
5. **S. canescens** (L.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum canescens* L., Pl. Rar. Afr.: 20 (1760); *Helipterum canescens* (L.) DC., Prodr. 6: 212 (1838).
– subsp. **canescens**
– subsp. **tricolor** (DC.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum canescens* (L.) DC. [var.] δ *tricolor* DC., Prodr. 6: 213 (1838).
– subsp. **leucolepis** (DC.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum canescens* (L.) DC. [var.] γ *leucolepis* DC., Prodr. 6: 213 (1838).
6. **S. virgata** (Berg.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum virgatum* Berg., Descr. Pl. Cap.: 275 (1767); *Helipterum virgatum* (Berg.) DC., Prodr. 6: 212 (1838). – *Xeranthemum staelhelia* L., Syst. Nat. ed. 12: 546 (1767).
– var. **virgata**
– var. **pallida** B. Nord. MS.
7. **S. affinis** (B. Nord.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum affine* B. Nord., Aquilo ser. Bot. 6: 220 (1967); *H. citrinum* Harv. & Sond., Fl. Cap. 3: 259 (1865), nom. illeg., non Steetz in Lehm., Pl. Preiss. 1: 474 (1845).
– var. **affinis**
– var. **rubens** B. Nord. MS.
8. **S. flava** (Compt.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum flavum* Compt., Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr. 19: 316 (1931).
9. **S. scariosa** B. Nord. MS.
10. **S. ferruginea** (Lam.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum ferrugineum* Lam., Encycl. 3: 237 (1789); *Helipterum ferrugineum* (Lam.) DC., Prodr. 6: 212 (1838).

11. **S. variegata** (Berg.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum variegatum* Berg., Descr. Pl. Cap.: 271 (1767);
Helipterum variegatum (Berg.) DC., Prodr. 6: 212 (1838).
12. **S. montana** (B. Nord.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum montanum* B. Nord., Bot. Notiser 119: 368 (1966).
13. **S. loganiana** (Compt.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum loganianum* Compt., Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr. 19: 317 (1931).
14. **S. marlothii** (Schlechter) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum marlothii* Schlechter, Journ. Bot. 1897: 437 (1897).
15. **S. speciosissima** (L.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum speciosissimum* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 858 (1753);
Helipterum speciosissimum (L.) DC., Prodr. 6: 211 (1838).
– subsp. **speciosissima**
– subsp. **angustifolia** (DC.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum speciosissimum* (L.) DC. [var.]
β angustifolium DC., Prodr. 6: 212 (1838).
16. **S. zeyheri** (Sond.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum zeyheri* Sond., Linnaea 23: 66 (1850).
– *Helipterum brachypterum* Levyns, Journ. S. Afr. Bot. 7: 84 (1941).
17. **S. argyropsis** (DC.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helipterum argyropsis* DC., Prodr. 6: 211 (1838).
18. **S. vestita** (L.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum vestitum* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 858 (1753); *Helichrysum vestitum* (L.) Willd., Sp. Pl. 3: 1903 (1803).
19. **S. lepidopodium** (H. Bol.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helichrysum lepidopodium* H. Bol., Trans. S. Afr. Phil. Soc. 18: 392 (1907).
20. **S. dykei** (H. Bol.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helichrysum dykei* H. Bol., Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Afr. 1: 156 (1909).

21. **S. paniculata** (L.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum paniculatum* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 859 (1753); *Helichrysum paniculatum* (L.) Willd., Sp. Pl. 3: 1911 (1803).
22. **S. recurvata** (L. fil.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum recurvatum* L. fil., Suppl. Pl.: 366 (1781);
Helichrysum recurvatum (L. fil.) Thunb., Pl. Cap.: 662 (1823).
23. **S. argentea** (Thunb.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum argenteum* Thunb., Prodr. Pl. Cap. 2: 152 (1800);
Helichrysum argenteum (Thunb.) Thunb., Fl. Cap.: 662 (1823).
24. **S. sordescens** (DC.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Helichrysum sordescens* DC., Prodr. 6: 178 (1838).
25. **S. striata** (Thunb.) B. Nord., comb. nov.
Syn.: *Xeranthemum striatum* Thunb., Prodr. Pl. Cap. 2: 152 (1800);
Helichrysum striatum (Thunb.) Thunb., Fl. Cap.: 661 (1823).

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